

How to Establish a Local Historic District

1. Any interested group or local neighborhood association may request that the Mayor appoint an historic preservation study committee to investigate the establishment of a local historic district.
2. The Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, appoints the study committee. The study committee should consist of three to seven members, who, as far as possible, are members of local historical societies, archaeological or architectural associations, preservation, educational or cultural groups and representatives of that particular neighborhood.
3. The Committee works with the staff of the HDLC to formulate a report on the historic significance of the buildings, structures, sites, monuments, and landmarks to be regulated by said commission. The Architectural Historian of the HDLC does a windshield survey of the buildings in the neighborhood to give them an architectural rating.
4. The Committee submits the above information and a recommendation of the proposed boundaries of said district to the City Planning Commission.
5. The Planning Commission reviews the information and holds a public hearing to present their recommendations, the report of the study committee and to allow public comment.
6. The City Planning Commission must submit a final written report to the City Council within 60 days after the public hearing. The report and recommendations should contain a complete description of the area; a map or sketch showing the boundaries of the proposed district, including any sites, monuments, and landmarks appropriate for landmarking.
7. The City Council must hold a public hearing within 90 days of receipt of the report. The Council may adopt, reject, refer it back to the Planning Commission or study committee for additional information or may modify the recommendations as it deems advisable.
8. If the Council adopts the study, it creates the local historic district by establishing ordinances giving the New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission the power to regulate the local district.

If the neighborhood residents are concerned about speculative demolitions during the study period, the City Council may adopt a moratorium on demolitions for the proposed district at the time that it appoints the study committee.

For more information or assistance, contact:

The Historic District Landmarks Commission
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New Orleans, LA 70112
(504) 658-7040

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This is a condensed version of the procedure as outlined in State Act 804, House Bill 1397.